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***Indiana's Office of Energy Development (OED) Opens Applications
for the 2015 Indiana Solar Thermal Water Heater Grant Program***

INDIANAPOLIS – The [Indiana Office of Energy Development \(OED\)](#) today announced that Indiana food and beverage processors can begin applying for a share of \$300,000 through the OED's 2015 Indiana Solar Thermal Water Heating (ISTWH) grant program.

OED's grant is intended to help food and beverage processors purchase solar hot water heaters so they can lower their energy bills and diversify their energy resources. Wineries, breweries, dairies and egg producers are examples of industries that may use a significant amount of energy to heat water for their processing operations. By diversifying energy sources, Indiana processors may reduce their exposure to energy price shocks, improve their access to affordable, reliable energy and reduce the need to build new energy capacity that affects all utility ratepayers.

"We're pleased to offer grants to help reduce water heating costs for one of the core sectors of Indiana's advanced economy," said OED Director Tristan Vance. "Projects such as these will help Indiana's traditional food and beverage processors remain globally competitive. They also will aid the growth and thriving of Indiana's newer industries, such as wineries and dairies."

Applications for the 2015 ISTWH grant program can be mailed to grants@oed.in.gov beginning today, September 8, 2015, through October 27, 2015. Program guidelines are available online at <http://www.in.gov/oed/2735.htm>. The winning recipients must provide 50 percent cost share for the project, and special consideration will be given to applications that leverage greater than 50 percent cost share. The maximum award per grant will be \$50,000.

Projects must be ready to move beyond the planning stage and be ready for implementation. Eligible applicants must consume at least 100,000 gallons of water each year as part of their food and beverage processing. OED expects applicants to demonstrate their need for this project and how this project will benefit their operations, Vance said. Winning applicants will report to OED their costs and energy savings for one year after the completion of the project.

Those selected to receive a 2015 ISTWH grant will be notified by letter and email during November 2015.

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The [Indiana Office of Energy Development \(OED\)](#) was established to shepherd the state's energy plan. OED focuses on the development and implementation of comprehensive energy planning for the state that utilizes all of Indiana's energy resources and supports a strong, dynamic and growing economy. OED coordinates state energy policy with executive branch agencies, houses energy-related programs and works to support a strong, comprehensive, coordinated energy plan for Indiana. The office also administers grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. These grants promote the use of alternative power and fuels, energy efficiency and public education on energy issues in Indiana.